

46 ROSENBERG GRAND JURY WITNESSES (testimony to be released September 11, 2008)

Government is not releasing testimony of William Danziger, Max Elitcher, and David Greenglass

The descriptions provided below are based on available evidence. Additional details will be added after the transcripts are reviewed.

1. Ruth Alscher

Ruth Alscher was Max Elitcher's sister-in-law. She was married to his brother, Morris Alscher. In interviews with the FBI, Max and Helene Elitcher said that Ruth Alscher attended a party in 1944 in New York with them that was attended by three individuals who the Bureau suspected were Soviet agents: Julius Rosenberg, Joel Barr and William Perl. She also attended parties at a Greenwich Village apartment that Barr and another Soviet agent, Alfred Sarant, shared. Ruth Alscher was a friend of Bernice Levin; Levin was identified as a Soviet agent by Elizabeth Bentley. Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Foley confidentially told the FBI in 1951 that Ruth Alscher had asserted privileges under the Fifth Amendment when called to testify to the Rosenberg grand jury. At the time of the Rosenberg/Sobell trial, Morris Alscher had died, leaving Ruth Alscher with three small children.

2. Herman Bauch [\[no reference\]](#)

3. Soloman H. Bauch

Lawyer for Pitt Machine Products; where Julius Rosenberg worked. On June 6, 1950, Julius authorized Bauch to empower Bernie Greenglass to sign company checks, telling him that the Rosenbergs were contemplating a trip.

4. Harry Belock

One of Morton Sobell's superior at Reeves Electronics in June 1950 when Sobell fled to Mexico.

5. Dr. George Bernhardt

Bernhardt testified at the Rosenbergs trial regarding plans of the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell to secure travel documents and flee the country, possibly to Russia.

6. Florence Cohen

[Wife of David Cohen, United Public Workers of America organizer. Florence Cohen also worked for the UPWA, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America. She was questioned about her knowledge of Anna Goodman Allen. \[More on page 650\]](#)

7. Sylvia Danziger

William Danziger's wife. Sylvia Danziger's membership in the Communist Party during World War II prompted the FBI to investigate her and William (Bill) Danziger. The Danziger's were close friends of Morton Sobell, and of other individuals closely associated with Julius Rosenberg.

8. William Danziger [\[witness opposed release, testimony will not be released\]](#)

9. Benedict DeBuff

[Benedict DeBuff was a federal grand jury reporter. \[More on page 727\]](#)

10. Max Elichter [witness opposed release, testimony will not be released]

11. Helene Elichter

Max Elichter's wife. Max Elichter told the FBI that when Julius Rosenberg visited him in Washington, DC in the summer of 1944, he had asked Helene to step out of the room so he could discuss some business with Max in private. This was the first of many occasions on which Julius attempted to recruit him as a Soviet agent, Max Elichter later told the FBI. A Communist during the 1940s, Helene Elichter broke with the Party and cooperated extensively with the FBI, describing her and Max Elichter's experiences as members of secret Communist cells in wartime Washington, as well as some activities of Julius Rosenberg, Morton Sobell, Joel Barr and William Perl in New York.

12. Edward J. Garrett

Morton Sobell's immediate supervisor at Reeves Electronics in June 1950 when Sobell fled to Mexico.

13. Vivian Glassman (Pataki)

Vivian Glassman was the fiancée of Joel Barr and a close friend of Ethel Rosenberg. Barr was a member of the Rosenberg ring who fled from Paris behind the Iron Curtain on June 16, 1950, the day after David Greenglass's arrest was announced in the newspapers. Barr and Glassman broke off their engagement in 1948, and Glassman later dated and married Ernst Pataki.

In July 1950 Glassman arrived at William Perl's apartment in Cleveland and tried to give him \$2,000 and instructions on how to flee to Mexico. Fearing she was part of an FBI provocation, he repulsed her and reported the encounter to the FBI. When questioned about it, Glassman said an unknown Russian man had appeared at the door of her New York apartment with the money and asked her to deliver it and the flight instructions to Perl. Glassman told the FBI that the same man had returned to her apartment and retrieved the cash a few days later. The FBI strongly suspected that Glassman was a witting member of the Rosenberg spy ring, but it never obtained solid evidence against her.

14. Harry Gold

Gold was a confessed Soviet courier who met with numerous industrial spies during the early Cold War period. After he was arrested, Gold told federal authorities about a meeting with a young GI in New Mexico who gave him information from the Los Alamos atom-bomb facility which he delivered to his Soviet handlers. Based on Gold's description, the FBI identified David Greenglass; in his first interview, Greenglass confessed to passing information to Gold as well as to Julius Rosenberg.

On July 20, 1950, in federal court, Gold pled guilty to conspiracy to transmit documents to a foreign power. In testimony before the grand jury investigating Alger Hiss, Gold stated that he served a courier for atomic energy information gleaned from Klaus Fuchs, a Soviet military intelligence agent. Gold also admitted that he transmitted information about the development of the building of an atomic bomb to his Soviet contacts. Gold was given a 30-year prison sentence.

At the Rosenbergs trial, Gold claimed that he had not known either of the Rosenbergs by name but recounted being told by his Soviet control, Anatoli Yakovlev, that when Gold met with his contact in New Mexico, Gold should listen for the recognition signal, "I come from Julius." This statement was devastating to defense efforts to cast doubt on the guilt of their clients. It also served to make a concrete connection between the defendants and an acknowledged Soviet agent.

15. Harold F. Good

An FBI agent assigned to guard David Greenglass when he was in custody.

16. David Greenglass [witness opposed release, testimony will not be released]

17. Ruth Greenglass

Ruth Greenglass confessed to involvement in espionage after her husband, David Greenglass, had confessed. David agreed to cooperate fully with the FBI provided that his wife would be kept entirely out of the matter. Later, the government named Ruth Greenglass as an un-indicted co-conspirator.

In interviews, Ruth Greenglass told the FBI that, in Ethel's presence, Julius had asked Ruth to persuade David to spy at Los Alamos. She also stated that Harry Gold had identified himself as a courier using a recognition password arranged by Julius. On the basis of these new statements by Ruth Greenglass, on July 17, 1950, Julius Rosenberg was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit espionage.

At the trial, Ruth Greenglass described in considerable detail the story of how she learned that Ethel Rosenberg had typed documents for Julius, and she also described payments that David and Ruth claimed to have received from Julius Rosenberg to help finance their flight to Russia. Ruth Greenglass also provided corroborating testimony regarding a Jell-O box panel that had been cut or torn into two pieces, which, at the appropriate time, were to be joined by David and his Soviet espionage courier as a recognition signal.

18. Mervin Isaacs

[Mervin Isaacs was the accountant for Pitt Machine Products, Inc. since 1947. \[More on page 211\]](#)

19. Kathryn Kearns

[Kathryn Kearns was a labor analyst for the Reeves Instrument Corp. and was questioned about Morton Sobell. \[More on page 830\]](#)

20. Samuel Levine

An electrical engineer who studied with and knew Sobell, Barr, Rosenberg and Perl at CCNY in the 1930s. In 1950, he was Chief of the Radar System Section at the U.S. Army Signal Corps Evans Signal Laboratory in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. The FBI investigated him in 1950-1951, and again in 1953-1954 as a potential Soviet agent, because of his past associations with Sobell and Rosenberg and his access to highly classified information. He told the FBI that he had resisted Rosenberg's attempts to recruit him into the Young Communist League when they were at CCNY. Levine testified before the McCarthy Committee during its investigation into allegations of Communist espionage at the Evans Signal Lab.

- 21. Edith Levitov**
Morton Sobell's sister-in-law (Helene Sobell's sister).
- 22. Ross C. Merritt**
- 23. Mark Page**
Born Marcus Pogarsky, a close friend of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, an ardent Communist. Ruth Greenglass told the FBI that Julius Rosenberg had become very upset when Page turned down his request to become a Soviet spy. The FBI speculated that Page, an engineer at Westinghouse Corp., was declined because he was already spying for Soviet military intelligence.
- 24. Stella Page**
Mark Page's wife.
- 25. Florence Pasternak**
[Was a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Poland; arrived in U.S. in 1913. Married to Morris Pasternak, whom she met in Moscow after leaving the U.S. Worked in 1930 as a typist for the newspaper Moscow News. Questioned about associations with the Sobells. \[More on page 715.\]](#)
- 26. Louis Pasternak**
[Naturalized U.S. citizen born in Ukraine; arrived in U.S. in 1950. Unmarried. Employed as Manager at Camp Unity \(Lake Ellis Camp Corporation\). Uncle of Morton Sobell; questioned about Sobell's membership in Communist Party. \[More on page 849.\]](#)
- 27. Morris Pasternak**
[Husband of Florence Pasternak, whom he met in Moscow. Questioned about receipt of correspondence about Morton Sobell. \[More on page 723.\]](#)
- 28. Ernst Pataki**
Ernst Pataki was Vivian Glassman's boyfriend (after she broke off her engagement with Joel Barr) and eventually became her husband. He was with her when a Soviet agent appeared at the door and asked her to take money to scientist William Perl, one of Rosenberg's network who was working for NACA in Cleveland.
- 29. William Perl**
Perl was an engineer who was called to testify before the Rosenberg grand jury in mid-August 1950. Unlike others, he did not take the Fifth Amendment, but he denied knowing Julius Rosenberg or Morton Sobell. In May 1953, shortly before the Rosenbergs were executed, Perl was charged with four counts of perjury in his grand jury testimony for denying knowing Julius Rosenberg and various accomplices. Perl was convicted on two of the four perjury charges.

Perl is mentioned in Soviet intelligence cables decrypted in the Venona project. His covernames were Gnome and Yakov. Alexander Feklisov, a long-serving KGB officer, said in his memoir that Perl provided the Soviets with thousands of pages of classified intelligence about American aviation technology.

- 30. Mildred Pfleger**
[Wife of Robert E. Pfleger. \[More on page 393.\]](#)
- 31. Robert E. Pfleger**
[Employed as Account Executive for Meljrum & Fewsmith Advertising Agency in Cleveland. Questioned about advertisement and sale of car to William Perl, who was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Sidorovich. \[More on page 323.\]](#)
- 32. Sarah Powell**
[Sarah Powell worked for the Veterans Administration and was an acquaintance of Max Elitcher. \[More on page 866\]](#)
- 33. Stanley Price**
[Stanley Price met William Perl while trying to sell his car. \[More on page 476\]](#)
- 34. Ethel Rosenberg**
Ethel Rosenberg was born September 28, 1915, in New York City. She married Julius in the summer of 1939 and they had two sons. Ethel was arrested on August 11, 1950, just after she made her second appearance before the grand jury. The controversy over Ethel's arrest is supported by an FBI record that suggested charges should be brought against Ethel as a possible means to make Julius talk.

At the trial, Ethel denied the Greenglasses' allegations of her involvement in espionage activities. Under cross examination, prosecutor Saypol attempted to impeach her credibility by reading back portions of her grand jury statement from the previous August, when she took the Fifth Amendment on identical questions.

Like her husband, Ethel was charged under the Espionage Act, convicted on March 29, 1951, and sentenced to death. She was executed shortly after her husband on June 19, 1953.

- 35. Julius Rosenberg**
Julius Rosenberg was born in New York on May 12, 1918. He was graduated from the City University of New York with a degree in electrical engineering in 1939. As part of a generation of students that was highly politicized by the Great Depression and the growth of fascism abroad, Rosenberg joined the Young Communist League in 1936. Julius married Ethel Greenglass in 1939, the same year that he was inducted into the American Communist Party (CPUSA).

Julius joined the Army Signal Corps as a civilian engineer in the fall of 1940. By 1942, he was an open and active CPUSA member. However, he and his wife dropped out of the open party in 1943 when Julius started to pursue espionage activities. In 1945, Julius was fired from his job with the Army Signal Corps when his past membership in the CPUSA came to light as the result of a routine security investigation. Subsequently, he took a position with the Emerson Radio Corporation and then formed a small machine shop with members of his wife's family and a family friend, Isadore Goldstein.

Rosenberg was arrested on June 17, 1950, on suspicion of espionage. Rosenberg's arrest was the result of having been named by his wife's brother, David Greenglass, who had confessed to

authorities. At the trial, Julius steadfastly denied the story advanced by his brother-in-law. Julius was convicted on March 29, 1951, and sentenced to death under Section 2 of the Espionage Act. He was executed by electric chair at Sing-Sing Prison in New York on June 19, 1953.

36. Emmanuel Schwartz

Born in Winnipeg in 1917, studied at U. of Manitoba then got masters at U. of Chicago. Currently getting doctorate at Illinois Institute of Technology and teaching at Gary Center, "a little college" connected to Indiana University. Worked on Manhattan Project at Los Alamos from approximately July 1944 to January or February 1946, then at Chicago for about 6 months, until June 1946. Worked on same project but different aspects in each place. Had nothing to do with the "H" Project since moving to Chicago. While at Los Alamos, worked in Dr. Greisen's group focusing on compression ratios; then with Dr. Hirshfelder's group on shock theory including the velocity of a nuclear shock wave. After that, worked under Dr. Turkevitch at Princeton (first name unclear, may be John, the older of two brothers; the younger brother was at Chicago). "I did some calculations for him" on the initial stages of the "H" bomb. [More details in transcript about nature of work Did not work on critical mass of the bomb, he thinks. (IFG-1-2, p. 832-3; GJ testimony January 31, 1951)

37. Perry Alexander Seay

Worked with Morton Sobell at Reeves Instrument Corp. Testified in executive session to the McCarthy Committee about Sobell's activities at Reeves.

38. Robert B. Seidman

Attorney, admitted to New York Bar in 1948. Had just started his own law practice, but also works in offices of Neuburger, Shapiro, Rabinowitz & Boudin. Glassman testifies that he is the assistant to Leonard Boudin who represents Glassman's Union 19. Seidman denies representing Glassman, but according to Glassman he advised him of his constitutional rights prior to testifying. Seidman is married with one child. He went to Fieldstone School, Harvard, the Graduate Teachers College of Winnetka, Illinois (just before the war), then Columbia Law School. Age 30. Served in the Coast Guard for four-and-a-half years, ending service with rank of lieutenant. (LB-1, p. 90; IFG-2, p. 38, 59, 55-56; GJ testimony August 15, 1950)

Asked in his Grand Jury testimony if he belongs to any Communist organization, replies: "That question I cannot answer, sir, for seven different reasons." He is also asked about his acquaintance with Vivian Glassman who became a client about a week before his GJ appearance. (p. 91-3)

39. Ann H. Sidorovich

Ann and Michael Sidorovich were friends of the Rosenbergs. At the trial, Ethel Rosenberg testified that Julius had announced at a dinner that Ann Sidorovich was to act as a courier carrying material for the Greenglasses between New Mexico and New York. Ann Sidorovich reportedly gave sworn testimony before the grand jury denying that she ever discussed being a courier with the Rosenbergs; the Greenglasses stuck to their story.

Neither Ann Sidorovich nor her husband were called by the prosecution to testify at the Rosenbergs trial, raising the possibility that their grand jury testimony may contain information that would cloud-if not contradict-the "facts" as presented to the jury by the prosecution.

The Sidorovich's are mentioned as Soviet agents in the "Venona" decrypts of Soviet intelligence files and in a memoir written by Alexander Feklisov, a KGB officer who handled the Rosenbergs during World War II.

40. Michael Sidorovich

Husband of Ann Sidorovich. Mike Sidorovich had been a high school classmate of Julius and they had both worked for the same aeronautical company before Julius joined the Signal Corps. Michael had fought in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade for the Loyalists in Spain.

41. Helen Sobell

Wife of Morton Sobell, who fled to Mexico with her husband and their children on June 22, 1950.

42. Louis Sobell

Russian immigrant, aged 61, father of Morton Sobell, who is a subject of inquiry for his alleged affiliation with the Communist party. [See also Rose Sobell, below.] (p. 299ff.; GJ testimony August 24, 1950)

43. Rose Sobell

Fifty-six-year-old Russian immigrant who came to the United States in September 1906, became naturalized citizen through her husband who she met in New York in 1915. Two children, Morton, born in 1917, and Beverly, born in 1924. (LB-1, p. 270ff.; GJ testimony August 24, 1950)

First line of questioning in her testimony is about Morton and his Communist affiliations. (p. 272ff.)

44. Abraham J. Surouell

Self-employed draftsman, vice president of Sangater Surovell Associates, Inc. in Washington DC. Married to Ester Shaick with three young children. Previously worked at Navy Hydrographic Office starting approximately February 8, 1942 before enlisting in the Navy on November 24, 1942 where he was assigned to draft maps for a publication called "The Naval Air Pilot," then was put in charge of "The Weather Summary for the United States Navy Air Pilot." Honorable discharge February 16, 1946. (LB-1, p. 610ff.; GJ testimony October 26, 1950)

First line of questioning is about William Danziger. He declines to say even whether he knows him on grounds of self-incrimination. (p. 613)

45. Oscar John Vago

Oscar Vago was a business partner of Abraham Brothman, who had been arrested earlier and whom the press linked to Rosenberg.

46. Frank Wilentz

Frank Wilenz owned the apartment building where the Greenglass family lived.

